

Railway Companies' Talk of 6-cent or 7-cent Car Fare Causes Agitation Here

PROPAGANDA OF FINANCIAL WOE STARTED BY CAR LINES

By BILL PRICE.

That talk of a 6-cent or 7-cent street car fare for Washington has caused something that rhymes with hell to break loose. The odor will be typical, too, before the suggested increases are made, if they ever are.

But the facts are what the people want and are going to get.

They are that the Washington Railway and Electric Company, with the Capital Traction Company, is entering upon a propaganda of financial woe, all preliminary to a final appeal to the Public Utilities Commission for relief, based entirely upon the plea that 5-cent fares are not going to give the companies sufficient revenues to pay proper returns upon their stocks and bonds.

It is not true that the W. R. and E. is preparing data to file an early petition for increased fares, although that is the evident purpose in the end. The company is merely starting on the tale of woe it ultimately will reveal. Possibly the tale of woe will be accurate enough in facts and figures to make an impression on the public and the Utilities Commission.

Undecided On Action.

The company, however, is not definitely decided on an actual policy of asking for an increase. It really does not know at this minute just what it will do beyond laying its difficulties before the commission and the public. Its officers state frankly that it is up against a bad situation, which will get worse so long as high wages are paid the crews and employees generally, and so long as high prices prevail for everything used by the roads.

It is denied today by the railway authorities that the purpose of the facts already given out and to be followed by others is one of opposition to free inter-company transfers at the intersecting points recommended by John A. Beier, and on which a hearing will be held by the commission next Tuesday morning.

The railway companies will not, it definitely was stated today, strongly oppose the transfers. They cannot favor them, on the other hand, in view of the alleged financial outlook. The plan will be to tell the Utilities Commission what is the outlook, and to put the whole thing strongly upon that body. If the commission orders the transfers, NO LEGAL FIGHT WILL BE MADE.

Four Ways of Relief.

The position of the Washington Railway and Electric Company today is that there are four ways the commission may follow in the event that body considers that the companies will have to be given further financial relief.

1. Reduction of wages and other expenses. Neither officials of the companies nor the commission would approve this. Both say that at present cost of living the employees are entitled to no more than what they are entitled to.

2. A charge for transfers. Railway officials declare this would not be sufficient to give the necessary help. It would be a free transfer as recommended would bear comparatively little on the future financial affairs of the companies.

3. Flat increases in fares. 4. Further issues of bonds. To the Utilities Commission, whenever the companies are prepared to make public their data, the recommendation will be "Take your choice of these four."

The Other Side.

The foregoing is the railway side of the situation. It is at least definitely settled today that it will take a long time to convince the commission that the companies are correct in their conclusions, or that any of the four courses recommended will have to be followed. The commission knows a few things.

One of these is that the doubtful tune now being played by the companies is based on figures of receipts and expenditures before the 5-cent fare was put into effect. They are also based upon the idea that Washington is going to lose heavily in population and that the revenues of the company will rapidly slide down hill.

The flat 5-cent fare went into effect this city December 1, last, just a little more than a month ago. It had been ordered more than a month in advance on representations of financial losses. The result under this increased fare are yet to be made.

CAUGHT ANOTHER TERRIBLE COLD?

Relieve it quickly with Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey.

Don't say you're going to let it wear itself out. It's just as liable to become chronic. And then the balsamic ingredients of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey help to soothe the tickle, the healing ingredients help nature to soothe the phlegm congestion, and a happy, comfortable relief soon follows.

Cough due to Grippe, bronchitis, asthmalike also relieved. And at a very trifling cost for Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey is very economical. Try it. 50c, 60c, \$1.25.

Rescue Scenes From Stranded Transport



A remarkable photograph showing Coast Guards rushing to the rescue of returned soldiers thrown into the sea by the capsizing of a lifeboat in which they were being taken ashore from the stranded transport Northern Pacific, which is aground at Fire Island.

known, and the commission would investigate this phase closely before entertaining any move for further revenues.

The population of Washington has not been reduced, as some people thought. Official figures show this, and the jammed condition of street cars is further testimony.

Commission's Trump Card.

When the commission granted the recent increase it did so as an emergency measure. Its policy for years had been to allow returns upon PUBLIC UTILITIES, BASED ON THEIR VALUATIONS.

The Commission has not fixed the valuation of the properties of the two electric lines. It would estimate a long time before making another increase in fares unless it did so with its own valuations before it. Briefly put, the Washington Railway and Electric Company is today paying reasonable returns upon \$15,000,000 of capital stock and over \$17,000,000 of bonded indebtedness. This does not include the capital stock, and bonded debt of the City and Suburban Line, Georgetown and Tenleytown Line, Forest Glen and Bladensburg lines. They are controlled by the Washington Railway and Electric Company.

From revenues derived from the people of Washington, therefore, the company is paying returns upon an enormous capital stock and a pretty large bonded debt. The capital stock of the company is divided between \$5,000,000 common and \$5,000,000 preferred. Each is paying 5 per cent dividends each year, the common having paid 7 until last year, when strike losses from the previous year reduced it.

The presumption has been that the commission would not find the valuation of the properties anything like the claims of the company, and consequently the revenues necessary would not be as great as the company claims to pay returns upon the outstanding valuation.

In the case of the Capital Traction, the capital stock is \$12,000,000, all preferred, and bonded indebtedness authorized \$6,000,000, most of which is outstanding.

Actual Valuation Basis. In pressing their claims for increased revenues, which the companies have set out to do, they are practically certain to find the Utilities Commission determined that it will grant no further increases of fares until it knows what revenues should be allowed to give reasonable returns upon actual valuations for the commission.

to take the position that it prefers a authorize additional bond sales as a measure of giving necessary revenues rather than resort to a 6-cent or 7-cent fare, which the companies themselves believe would still leave them in a problematical situation, dependent upon the attitude of the public.

In many cities the companies have increased fares than under the old fares, inasmuch as the public riding short distances started to walking, cutting revenues heavily.

8 ORPHANS TAKEN FROM WOMAN HERE

Six boys and two girls were today taken into custody by order of the Juvenile Court on an attachment issued against Mrs. Cecelia R. Greer, of 115 Twelfth street northeast on charges alleging that the children were destitute of a suitable home. The attachment was issued on complaint of Mrs. A. Van Winkle, a policeman.

The children, all of whom are less than sixteen years old, were brought from an orphanage in Philadelphia by Mrs. Greer, it is alleged. The charges were brought about by Mrs. Van Winkle when Arnes Dunn, twelve years old, one of the adopted children, ran away. The girl was absent from home over night, and was located by the police. Shortly after the girl had been located Mrs. Van Winkle investigated the case, with the result that she petitioned for the attachment.

Mrs. Greer has adopted several children from various orphanages and rear them, and the children do light work in the bakery, of which Mrs. Greer is proprietor. Information has been filed in the courts by Mrs. Van Winkle charging Mrs. Greer with violation of the child labor law.

NO MILK; LEAPS OUT WINDOW.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Despondency over her inability to provide milk for four children because of the rising prices, was given by police the reason Sarah Fox, aged twenty-two, leaped from a third story window of the tenement in which she lived. She suffered a fractured skull.



Miss Mary A. Murphy, of Saylesville, R. I. (left), and Miss Ruth M. Walker, of North Dartmouth, Mass., nurses who returned from France on the stranded transport Northern Pacific, photographed after they had been ferried ashore from the transport by Coast Guards.

"WHISKEY IN HOME" NAME COMMITTEE CASE IS UP TODAY

The case brought by James White before Judge Hardison in the United States branch of the Police Court, following the confiscation by the police of fourteen-and-a-half cases of whiskey from his home in 435 Six-and-one-half street southwest, was to have been heard this morning, but pressure of business caused it to be delayed. It will be heard late this afternoon.

The decision of the court is expected to clear up the question as to whether a citizen of the District of Columbia may keep whiskey in his home undisturbed by the police, or whether the police may enter any citizen's home and seize whiskey on the suspicion that it is being kept there for illegal purposes.

Contrary to expectations, when the court convened no subpoena had been served on either Major Raymond Pullman, Superintendent of Police, or upon E. B. Hesse, property clerk of the Police Department.

Case Attracting Interest. Robert J. Miller, attorney for White, had asked that these two officials appear before Judge Hardison to explain why they were holding Mr. White's fourteen and a half cases, but later consented to argue the case with no police official present other than Sergeant W. G. Stott, who had seized the liquor.

If Judge Hardison decides in favor of Mr. White, police officials will not have the right to enter a citizen's home and take liquor from him on suspicion that it is being held for illegal purposes. If Judge Hardison decides otherwise, the police will pursue the policy under which they have been operating for several months past, and will continue their relentless war upon the stocks of liquor hidden away in many Washington homes, if they have the idea that the liquor is held for illegal purposes.

In making up a case against White, the Government contended that the liquor was for illegal purposes. His attorney contended that the seizure of the liquor was a violation of the constitutional rights of citizens and also in conflict with the doctrine of law that "every man's house is his castle."

NAME COMMITTEE ON SOLDIERS' JOBS

Commissioner Louis Brownlow has appointed a committee of seven to represent the District in conferences with the Community Labor Board which is working to obtain positions for discharged District soldiers. The Y. M. C. A. and M. D. Schaefer, representing the Knights of Columbus, will cooperate with the board.

The committee is composed of John Joy Edson, representing business in Washington; Thomas McGilton, representing labor; Mrs. Mary Wright Johnson, representing women; Daniel E. Wiseman, representing colored citizens; John Dolph, representing Red Cross; E. M. Davis, representing the Y. M. C. A.; and M. D. Schaefer, representing the Knights of Columbus.

Anticipating the time when men in the civil service will be mustered out and, therefore, seeking employment, the Civil Service Commission has recommended to the President that provision be made for the reinstatement in the civil service of all such men. President Wilson has issued the following order:

Under the terms of the executive order, a man who was separated from the civil establishment to take part in the war may be reinstated in a civil service position within five years after his discharge from the military or naval service. There is no restriction that the man must be reinstated in the particular position from which he was separated. Under the terms of the executive order, he may be reinstated anywhere in the civil service, provided that at the time of reinstatement he has the required fitness to perform the duties of the position to which reinstatement is sought.

GARFIELD GETS HARKNESS.

Frank E. Harkness today was named solicitor for the United States fuel administration. Administrator Garfield announced.

CONGRESS TO INSIST UPON ACCOUNTING BY CARRANZA

By L. C. MARTIN.

"Make Mexico pay" is the demand raised with ever growing emphasis in Congress these days.

So strong has the demand grown that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has agreed to report immediately a resolution directing the State Department to begin vigorous action to force Carranza's government to an accounting.

Those demanding this accounting want these two things:

First—Prompt payment by Mexico of claims of Americans who have suffered loss through bandit raids or attacks of Mexican federal troops in Mexico.

Second—Adoption by this Government of an attitude which will constitute a rebuke to Mexico for virtually siding with Germany in the war.

Charge Big Business.

Discussion of the Mexican question in Congress, as elsewhere, has always brought the charge that those demanding vigorous action are working for American "big business." That charge has been revived, but whether it is true or not, the situation is not changed by it. The demand for action exists.

Senator King of Utah is the author of a resolution directing the State Department to report at once whether claims of American citizens compiled months ago have been paid before the Mexican government, and if not, why they are being held up.

"Senator Hitchcock, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has promised his committee will at once report this resolution," said King today. "I believe the feeling of a majority of the Senate can be expressed by saying that Mexico should now make return for the patience and forbearance of President Wilson by settling these accounts, which affect thousands of American citizens."

Sided With Germany.

"In spite of our kindness to Mexico, our efforts to help her, her government chose in the great war to side against the entente and with Germany. Mexico was a helper of German intrigue. This Government, of course, will do nothing violating the high ideals we have always followed in dealing with other nations, particularly weak ones, but the time for indulging with Mexico has ended. We should see that never again can our enemies stand at our threshold and work against us, with the connivance, if not the actual help, of our neighbor."

Senator Ashurst of Arizona is another who wants Congress to prod the State Department into action with respect to American claims against Mexico. Western Senators are practically unanimous in support of King and Ashurst.

The latter also is author of a resolution to purchase Lower California from Mexico, if for sale.

Investigation shows that the great preponderance of American officers and men having a day or so to pass in Paris while in transit invariably visit such well-known places as Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Madeleine, the Sacre Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, the Bois de Boulogne, the Bastille Monument, the Tuilleries Gardens, and the Invalides.

"They are temperate in their habits, and this situation is largely eased through the lack of whiskey over here, and a glass of beer, with a little wine at meals is all that they drink as a general thing."

General Harris has organized a highly efficient force of M. P.'s who are posted all over the city, day and night. They are stationed at all railway stations and at intersections of principal streets.

More than 17,000 pupils yesterday were absent from their classes in the public schools. This is approximately one-third of the total enrollment.

More than 180 school teachers also are absent from their classes. This is one-tenth of the total number of teachers in the schools.

Ernest L. Thurston, superintendent of schools, in making public the number of absent school children and teachers told The Times that the absence could be accounted for in two ways.

Mr. Thurston said: "We believe that the majority of the absences are due to persons in the community wishing to keep their children from the danger of contracting influenza in the schools. On the other hand hundreds of children are at home with colds. We have very few reports of influenza among the student body."

Mr. Thurston said school officials are having a difficult time keeping all the classes going with the shortage of teachers.

"It is almost impossible to obtain substitutes," the superintendent said.

ANOTHER APPEAL.

The organization of a Polish-American relief committee to aid the starving Poles was urged today by the Polish headquarters in Paris. In a cablegram to the Polish headquarters here, attention was called to the fact that Poland was confronted with famine and that there was urgent need for quick action. John Smulski, Chicago banker, who has been in Washington several days conferring with Polish leaders, returned to Chicago today to begin the work of organizing a relief committee.

IRISH MEET TOMORROW.

The Patrick H. Pearce Branch of Friends of Irish Freedom will meet tomorrow evening at Northeast Temple, Twelfth and H streets northeast. The executive committee will have reports from the various branches throughout the United States. The meeting will be presided over by Rosa F. Downing.

Washington Babies Who Will Have to Be Introduced to Their Fathers

No. 5



Patricia Wallace, who was born October 28, 1918. She is the daughter of Mrs. Melville W. F. Wallace, of 1800 Massachusetts avenue northwest, and the granddaughter of the late Chief Justice Melville Fuller, of the United States Supreme Court. The baby's father, Capt. Melville W. F. Wallace, went to France two months before Baby Patricia was born.

PARIS IS SAFE FOR YANKS, SAYS HARTS

(Continued from First Page.)

for their guidance, and have caused absolutely no trouble for the French municipal police. Our own police, the M. P.'s—have little more to do than to act as guides and information officers."

General Harts asserted that he was heartily in favor of permitting as many officers as is possible to visit the French capital before they return to the United States, and said that there is no doubt that they will continue to behave themselves as well as they have in the past.

"The impression has been too prevalent in the United States," said General Harts, "that Paris, the pleasure city, is composed entirely of montmartre resorts and inhabited by questionable women. As a matter of fact that is entirely erroneous and these American troops who have been in Paris are going to do a whole lot toward dispelling that idea when they return to their homes in America."

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DR. DIFFENDERFER, OLD DISTRICT RESIDENT, DEAD

Dr. W. E. Diffenderfer died at his home at 1336 Columbia road at 8:20 o'clock this morning.

Heart disease was given as the cause of his death. Private funeral services will be held at his residence tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. Interment will be at Frederick City, Md.

Dr. Diffenderfer was sixty-two years old and had practiced dentistry here for more than twenty-five years. He was born in Martinsburg, W. Va., but came to Washington in 1880. He attended school here and later became a well known dentist. He is survived by his widow.

TODAY

(Continued from First Page.)

millions of watered stock, all pure H2O, upon a self-supporting basis will be the first test of New York's new governor.

What nose dives, tail spins, and zoomings have been experienced by innocent buyers of New York stock car stocks.

Can you imagine how much, men selling "short" could be made by inside gentlemen who knew that to make a poor face and get ready for higher fares, dividends would be cut off and even the bonds knocked to pieces?

The eels, it is said, get used to being skinned. New York is the largest living eel.

New York is also another kind of fish. What little boy can guess its name, beginning with S?

CAPITAL PHYSICIAN IS NAMED IN SUIT

(Continued from First Page.)

G. Covers Wetherill, fourteen years old, and Prescott Lawrence Wetherill, seven years old.

Says Big Estate.

After their marriage, Mr. Wetherill bought a vast estate in Westmoreland county, known as The Glebe, where they lived together until the spring of 1917. Mrs. Wetherill, in her answer, denies she left her home because of the circumstances set out in her husband's bill for divorce. In her answer Mrs. Wetherill says:

"I determined to send the smaller children to Washington so they could attend school in that city, and to that end on July 21, 1917, Mr. Wetherill rented an apartment in Washington to which respondent was to take the children and live during the school term."

Upon the approach of the Christmas holidays in 1917, Mrs. Wetherill avers in her answer, she made arrangements to take the two children to spend the holidays at their Virginia home, but that she was dissuaded from doing so by her husband, who stated, she asserts, that the frozen condition of the river might prevent her return with the children to resume their studies during the school term.

Finds Husband Away.

When school closed Mrs. Wetherill returned to her Virginia home, she states in her answer, and upon her arrival there found her husband away. While there, Mrs. Wetherill states, she was informed that her husband contemplated entering suit for divorce, and that she left the home and returned to Washington.

Mrs. Wetherill avers that "her husband is a man of large means, that his wealth consists of real estate, bonds and stocks—that he is unused to the management of business affairs, that he is careless in business matter, easily imposed upon; that he is dissipated in his habits, drinking intoxicants daily to the greatest excess."

Besides Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Wetherill is represented by Col. T. J. Downing, of Lancaster, Va. Mr. Wetherill's lawyers are J. Arthur Lynham, of Washington, and A. D. Butzner, of Fredericksburg, Va.

WOUNDED FROM TRANSPORT ARE TAKEN TO HOBOKEN

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—With 445 wounded officers and men rescued from the transport Northern Pacific, stranded off Fire Island, the transport Mallory arrived today at the port of embarkation at Hoboken, N. J.

The wounded, many of them suffering from exposure, were immediately sent to the various army hospitals in this district. The majority of them were transferred to motor ambulances to Embarkation Hospital No. 3 and to Ellis Island.

High medical authorities say "that these ingredients are beneficial notably in wasting diseases which are curable and those maladies which are connected with or have their origin in colds and debilitating and wasting diseases."

To give these statements in full would take too much space, but we will furnish on application the list of ingredients of Father John's Medicine, the name of these medical authorities referred to, what they say, the publications and the dates of same.

Never wait for a cold to wear off—it wears away the lungs instead. Neglected colds often lead to pneumonia. Father John's Medicine gives prompt relief from colds and throat troubles. Guaranteed free from alcohol and undetectable drugs upon which many medicines depend for their temporary effect, and which are dangerous, because they weaken the body and allow the disease to get deeper hold.

CHILDREN IN POSEN SHOT DOWN BY FOE

(Continued from First Page.)

a dispatch from Warsaw to the Times today.

BERLIN (via Copenhagen), Jan. 4.—The Polish army has occupied Skalmierz, Germany, destroying the fortress according to advices from Posen today.

BERLIN (via Copenhagen), Jan. 4.—Only twenty German divisions in excess of the Polish strength remain in western Germany, the armistice commission announced today.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 4.—Violent fighting is raging near Lemberg, in Galicia, between the Ukrainians and the Austrians, said a Vienna dispatch to the Politiken today. The Ukrainians troops bombarded Lemberg.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 4.—"Sharp measures" have been decided upon by the central committee of the German government in dealing with the situation at Posen, said a dispatch from Berlin today.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—With the Bolshevik armies winning additional victories practically everywhere, reports were received from several other sources today indicating a let-down of allied and German resistance.

A Tokyo dispatch said the war office has announced that 34,000 Japanese troops will be withdrawn from Siberia, and that hereafter only the smallest possible force will be maintained there.

German troops have retreated to a new position several kilometers from Riga, abandoning a thousand German soldiers in that city, according to a Berlin dispatch.

Well-equipped Bolshevik forces have captured Wlad and Wenden, according to a Riga dispatch. The Bolshevik communists, received from Moscow by wireless today, said:

"The Ukrainian councils troops have captured Bazy. Red guards captured Nave-Gurdok. Ukrainian red guards captured Homel. It is reported from Harva that red guards are advancing and annihilating the white guards, who landed recently."

"In the region of Reval and Riga, the Bolshevik offensive continues. We have captured the Novo-Svenchany station, Ilyanaka, Ostrov, and some of the villages along the Estons-Sterlitamak highway. Near Perm, the enemy occupied Ryzu."

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The White Guard (anti-Bolshevik army which was landed at Narva, Estonia) is being annihilated by the Red Guards, said a Russian wireless dispatch picked up here today.

The Red Army is only twenty-six miles from the great Russian port of Reval. Other Bolshevik forces are advancing on Minsk.

NORWAY WANTS INDEMNITY. COPENHAGEN, Jan. 4.—Norway will likely sue Germany for shipping lost through mines and submarines during the war. It was reported from Christiania today. The loss is put at 1,000,000,000 kroner. A Norwegian kroner is worth 26 cents in American money.

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A Wholesome Food Medicine And Body Builder

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The most eminent medical authorities, recognized all over the world as the highest in the science of medicine, have made public statements endorsing the value of such ingredients as we guarantee are the principle ingredients of Father John's Medicine.

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